

**RESOLUTIONNUMBER 201**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY/LEGAL ISSUES REGARDING HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS AND POPUP**  
**SHELTER**

**WHEREAS**, the unhoused or homeless population issue in the City of St. Louis is an issue that deserves to be addressed from both a public safety and health aspect, with a solution that is a fair and equitable solution for the entire city; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the position of the sponsors of this resolution that no-one deserves to be homeless or unhoused; and

**WHEREAS**, it is also the position of the sponsors that the homeless or unhoused should not have rights that are superior to the housed or property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, often there are public safety issues associated with homeless encampments or popup shelters that often violate the zoning laws of the City of St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2018 statistics from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) there are over a half a million Americans that are homeless. Those same statistics show that the homeless population has a high rate of mental illness, substance abuse and previous incarceration; and

**WHEREAS**, therefore unless homeless programs and housing are set up and placed in properly zoned areas, there are often external problems that plague the communities where the homeless shelters and housing are placed that require extra security and policing; and

**WHEREAS**, The last two administrations have also used pop up homeless shelters in locations around the City that do not seem to have Zoning Laws that allow said use and said pop up shelters are often reported by surrounding residents as the source of criminal behavior which increases the crime in their neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, using The Board of Adjustment and other methods such as closing the Larry Rice facility which had been located near the Downtown St. Louis Public Library for many decades, closing other facilities located in other parts of the City and moving them to Neighborhoods North St. Louis has caused public safety issues such as the burning down of valuable housing stock where homeless have sought refuge and attempted to heat the vacant housing by starting illegal fires; and

**WHEREAS**, There is some question as to the legality of homeless encampments and popup shelters; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been very little additional social services, security or policing assigned to these facilities Placing facilities in improper zoned areas or without proper support adds stress to St. Louis Neighborhood especially those that have been for years denied City resources to maintain a healthy living environment. This solution is patently unfair; and

**WHEREAS**, even though there are multiple documentable public safety problems at the certain homeless facilities and they have been clearly in violation of the zoning laws of the City of St. Louis, the Board of Adjustment has allowed these facilities to expand in violation of the law causing harm to the surrounding residential communities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the sponsors of this resolution are proposing that the Public Safety Committee convene to investigate the legality and the public safety issues surround homeless encampments, pop up homeless shelters, and all other homeless establishments.

**Introduced on the 4th day of March, 2022 by:  
The Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1<sup>st</sup> Ward**

**Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, as attested by:**

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**Terry Kennedy**  
**Clerk, Board of Aldermen**

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**Lewis E. Reed**  
**President, Board of Aldermen**